

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
BEFORE THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

In re Application of	:	Customer Number: 53080
	:	
Takahiro NAGAI, et al.	:	Confirmation Number: 1179
	:	
Application No.: 10/553,385	:	Tech Center Art Unit: 2447
	:	
Filed: October 19, 2005	:	Examiner: Jaren M. MEANS
	:	
For: MULTI-MEDIUM INFORMATION SHARING SYSTEM	:	

APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This Appeal Brief is submitted in support of the Notice of Appeal filed June 1, 2010, wherein Appellant appeals from the Primary Examiner's rejection of claims 1-20.

Real Party In Interest

This application is assigned to Panasonic Corporation (formally known as Matsushita Electric Industrial, Co., Ltd.) by assignment recorded on October 11, 2006 at Reel 018371, Frame 0929.

Related Appeals and Interferences

To the best of Appellant's and Appellant's representatives' knowledge, there are no related appeals or interferences (see, Related Proceedings Appendix).

Status of Claims

1. Claims canceled: None
2. Claims withdrawn from consideration, but not canceled: None
3. Claims pending: 1-20
4. Claims allowed: None
5. Claims rejected: 1-20
6. Claims on appeal: 1-20

Status of Amendments

Amendments to the claims were filed on July 23, 2009 in response to the February 24, 2009 Office Action. No amendment has been filed in response to the December 1, 2009 final Office Action.

Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

Claim 1 is an independent claim and is directed to a server 3 for use in a system 1 that is designed to transmit, receive and share multimedia information between a plurality of terminal devices 4R, 4S that are connected together over a network 2. Page 7, lines 16-19 and page 25, lines 12-15 of the originally filed specification; and FIG. 1. Here, the plurality of terminal devices includes a first terminal device 4R and a second terminal device 4S. FIG. 1. The server 3 comprises a network control device 29, a memory 28 storing a management table 34 for managing identifiers to identify the terminal devices and network addresses of the terminal devices on the network. Page 34, line 12-17; page 37, lines 7-11; and FIG. 2. The server 3 includes a server receiving unit 31 configured to receive a request including an identifier from the first terminal device 4R through the network control device

29. Page 37, lines 3-6. The server 3 also includes a processing unit 32 configured to acquire a network address of the first terminal device 4R upon receiving the request, and to acquire a network address of the second terminal device 4S by referring to the identifier included in the request and the management table 34. Page 37, lines 7-11. The server 3 further includes a server transmitting unit 31 configured to send the network address of the second terminal device 4S to the first terminal device 4R through the network control device 29 when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information (page 53, lines 8-11), or to send the network address of the first terminal device 4R to the second terminal device 4S when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information. Page 8, lines 9-14 and page 47, lines 15-18. As a result, the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices by referring to the network addresses provided. Page 8, lines 15-17.

Claim 2 recites, in claim 1, that when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, the server receiving unit 31 receives the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device, and the server transmitting unit 31 sends the share request to the second terminal device. Page 8, line 18 to page 9, line 3. When the server receiving unit 31 receives an acknowledgement, indicating that the multimedia information is receivable, from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the server transmitting unit 31 sends the network address of the second terminal device and a request to transmit the multimedia information to the first terminal device. Page 9, lines 3-9.

Claim 3 further limits claim 2 and recites that the first terminal device has a transmitting-end database 44 on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information representing properties of said at least one title, is stored. Page 9, lines 10-13. The server receiving unit 31 receives the title information from the first terminal device. The processing unit 32 makes a

title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the second terminal device. Page 9, lines 13-18. Further, the server transmitting unit transmits the title list to the first terminal device and receives a request to share the multimedia information, selected by referring to the title list, from the first terminal device. Page 9, line 18 to page 10, line 2.

Claim 4 further limits claim 3 and recites that the processing unit 32 makes the title list including titles that are playable by the second terminal device. Page 10, lines 3-4.

Claim 5 recites, in claim 1, that when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, the server 3 further includes a format description table that describes correspondence between the identifiers to identify the terminal devices and formats of the multimedia information that are compatible with respective terminal devices. Page 10, lines 5-10. The processing unit 32 generates filter information about the format compatible with the second terminal device by referring to the format description table, and the server transmitting unit 31 transmits the filter information to the first terminal device. Page 10, lines 10-14. A request to share the multimedia information that has been filtered by the first terminal device in accordance with the filter information is sent from the first terminal device to the second terminal device, whereby the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices. Page 10, lines 14-20.

Claim 6 recites, in claim 1, that when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information, the server receiving unit 31 receives the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device, and the server transmitting unit 31 sends the share request and the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device. Page 11, lines 1-7. When the server receiving unit 31 receives an acknowledgement, indicating that the multimedia information is transmittable, from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the server transmitting unit 31 sends a request to

receive the multimedia information to the first terminal device. Page 11, lines 7-12.

Claim 7 further limits claim 6 and recites that the second terminal device has a transmitting-end database 44 on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing properties of said at least one title, is stored. Page 11, lines 13-16. The server receiving unit 31 receives the title information from the second terminal device and the processing unit 32 makes a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the first terminal device. Page 11, line 16 to page 11, line 1. The server transmitting unit 31 transmits the title list to the first terminal device and receives a request to share the multimedia information, selected by referring to the title list, from the first terminal device. Page 12, lines 1-5.

Claim 8 further limits claim 7 reciting that the processing unit 32 makes the title list including titles that are playable by the first terminal device. Page 12, lines 6-7.

Claim 9 recites, in claim 1, that the network address includes an IP address and a port number. Page 12, line 8.

Claim 10 further limits claim 3 requiring a search unit 33 configured to search the title information that is stored in the transmitting-end database. Page 12, lines 9-11. The server receiving unit 31 receives the title information based on a result of the search done by the search unit 33. Page 12, lines 11-13.

Claim 11 is another independent claim corresponding to claim 1, and is directed to a method for processing a server for use in a system that is designed to transmit, receive and share multimedia information between a plurality of terminal devices that are connected together over a network. Page 12, line 14-18. The server 3 includes a network control device 29 and a management table 54 for managing identifiers to identify the terminal devices and network addresses of the terminal devices on the network 2. Page 12, line 18 to page 13, line 1. The plurality of terminal devices includes a first

terminal device and a second terminal device. FIG. 1. The method comprises the steps of receiving a request including an identifier from the first terminal device through the network control device, acquiring a network address of the first terminal device upon receiving the request, and to acquire a network address of the second terminal device by referring to the identifier included in the request and the management table, and sending the network address of the second terminal device to the first terminal device through the network control device when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information (page 53, lines 8-11) or sending the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information. Page 13, lines 2-11 and page 47, lines 15-18. As a result, the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices by referring to the network addresses provided. Page 13, lines 11-15.

Claim 12 limits claim 11 reciting that when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, the step of receiving includes receiving the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device. Page 13, lines 16-20. The step of sending includes sending the share request to the second terminal device. Page 13, line 20 to page 14, line 1. When an acknowledgement indicating that the multimedia information is receivable, is received from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the step of sending includes sending the network address of the second terminal device and a request to transmit the multimedia information to the first terminal device. Page 14, lines 1-7.

Claim 13 further limits claim 12 reciting that the first terminal device has a transmitting-end database 44 on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing properties of said at least one title, is stored. Page 14, lines 8-11. The step of receiving includes receiving the title information from the first terminal device. Page 14, lines 11-14. The step

of processing includes making a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the second terminal device. Page 14, lines 14-16. When, in the step of sending, the title list is sent to the first terminal device after the step of making a title list, the step of receiving includes receiving a request to share the multimedia information, selected by referring to the title list, from the first terminal device. Page 14, line 17 to page 15, line 1.

Claim 14 recites, in claim 13, that the step of processing includes making the title list including titles that are playable by the second terminal device. Page 15, lines 2-4.

Claim 15 recites, in claim 11, that when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, the server 3 further includes a format description table that describes correspondence between the identifiers to identify the terminal devices and formats of the multimedia information that are compatible with the respective terminal devices. Page 15, lines 5-10. The step of processing includes generating filter information about the format compatible with the second terminal device by referring to the format description table. Page 15, lines 10-13. The step of sending includes transmitting the filter information to the first terminal device. Page 15, lines 13-15. As a result, a request to share the multimedia information that has been filtered by the first terminal device in accordance with the filter information is sent from the first terminal device to the second terminal device, and the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices. Page 15, lines 15-20.

Claim 16 depend upon claim 11 reciting that when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information, the step of receiving includes receiving the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device. Page 16, lines 1-5. The step of sending includes sending the share request and the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device. Page 16, lines 5-7. When an acknowledgement

indicating that the multimedia information is transmittable, is received from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the step of sending includes sending a request to receive the multimedia information to the first terminal device. Page 16, lines 7-12.

Claim 17 further limit claim 16 reciting that the second terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing properties of said at least one title, is stored. Page 16, lines 13-16. The step of receiving includes receiving the title information from the second terminal device. Page 16, lines 16-19. The step of processing includes making a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the first terminal device. Page 16, line 19 to page 17, line 1. When in the step of sending, the title list is sent to the first terminal device after the step of making a title list, the step of receiving includes receiving a request to share the multimedia information, selected by reference to the title list, from the first terminal device. Page 17, lines 2-6.

Claim 18 further limits claim 17 and recites that the step of processing includes making the title list including titles that are playable by the first terminal device. Page 17, lines 7-9.

Claim 19 depends upon claim 11 and recited that the network address includes an IP address and a port number. Page 17, line 10.

Claim 20 depends upon claim 13 requiring the step of searching the title information that is stored in the transmitting-end database. Page 17, lines 11-13. The step of receiving includes receiving the title information based on a result of the step of searching. Page 17, lines 13-15.

Grounds of Rejection to Be Reviewed By Appeal

1) Claims 1-2, 6, 9, 11-12, 16 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enoki et al. (US 5,873,085) in view of Lui (“Interoperability of Peer-To-Peer File Sharing Protocols”, ACM SIGecom Exchanges, Vol. 3, No. 3, August 2002, pages 25-33), and further in view of Goodman et al. (U.S. Publication No. 2003/0177246 A1).

2) Claims 3, 4, 7-8, 10, 13, 14, 17-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Enoki et al. in view of Lui, and Goodman et al. and further in view of Yang B (“Comparing Hybrid Peer-To-Peer Systems”).

Argument

(1) Independent claim 1 is patentable over Enoki, Lui and Goodman since neither of the references discloses the claimed server transmitting unit.

The Office Action admits that Enoki and Lui do not explicitly disclose “a server transmitting unit configured to send the network address of the second terminal device to the first terminal device through the network control device when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information” of claim 1. Nevertheless, the Office Action relies on Goodman asserting that Goodman discloses these features at paragraph [0031] and Fig. 4. Appellant disagrees.

According to paragraph [0031] of Goodman, a server appears to send “a seed list” (i.e. a list of IP addresses) to the connected clients. However, the seed list (i.e., addresses of the clients) is sent to the other clients regardless of whether the other clients have a resource or not. According to paragraph [0031] of Goodman, each client first “announces itself” to the server, and the server sends a seed list to all the connected clients. Accordingly, Goodman does not disclose sending the network address of one client (i.e. the claimed second terminal device) to the other client (the claimed first terminal device) when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, or sending the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information.

In this regard, the May 14, 2010 Advisory Action asserts that the seed list contains several network addresses of devices including a second terminal device and a first terminal device both when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information and when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information. However, since the seed list merely contains the addresses of the clients regardless that the clients retain the multimedia information or not, the recipient of the seed list cannot know which client retains the specific multimedia information or which client requires the multimedia information. In case of a push-type sharing system of the present subject matter, where a

first terminal device sends a request to share the multimedia information (see, FIG. 5 of the present disclosure), the seed list of Goodman does not work. In other words, even if, *arguendo*, Goodman's seed list was used in the alleged combination of Enoki and Lui, the multimedia information could not be transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices by referring to the network addresses in such a combination, because the terminal devices cannot specify to which terminal device(s) the multimedia information should be sent.

In contrast, in claim 1, when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, the network address of the second terminal device is sent to the first terminal device, so that the first terminal device can know to which terminal device the multimedia information should be sent (i.e., push-type sharing system). Since the address information of the second terminal device is sent to the first terminal device, the multimedia information of the first terminal device can be directly sent to the second terminal device without intervention of the server.

In the December 1, 2009 Office Action, it is asserted that the "Search and Get request" process of Goodman relates to the above identified features of claim 1. However, it is clear that the "Search and Get request" process is a pull-type sharing process, in which a client who wants to receive the multimedia information sends a request to the server. As such, Goodman fails to disclose the push-type sharing system and process as set forth in claim 1. Accordingly, the combination of the cited references does not disclose the subject matter of claim 1 where a first terminal device having multimedia information can search a second terminal device which does not have the multimedia information.

Further, it is also clear that the additional cited Yang B reference does not cure the deficiencies of Enoki, Lui and Goodman, and it would not have been obvious to add these features to any combination of the cited references because there is simply no motivation or suggestion to do so.

Based on the foregoing, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 1 is patentable over the cited references.

(2) Independent claim 11 is patentable over Enoki, Lui and Goodman since neither of the references discloses the claimed step of sending the network address.

The Office Action admits that Enoki and Lui do not explicitly disclose the step of “sending the network address of the second terminal device to the first terminal device through the network control device when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information” of claim 11. Nevertheless, the Office Action relies on Goodman asserting that Goodman discloses these features at paragraph [0031] and Fig. 4. Appellant disagrees.

According to paragraph [0031] of Goodman, a server appears to send “a seed list” (i.e. a list of IP addresses) to the connected clients. However, the seed list (i.e., addresses of the clients) is sent to the other clients regardless of whether the other clients have a resource or not. According to paragraph [0031] of Goodman, each client first “announces itself” to the server, and the server sends a seed list to all the connected clients. Accordingly, Goodman does not disclose sending the network address of one client (i.e. the claimed second terminal device) to the other client (the claimed first terminal device) when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, or sending the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information.

In this regard, the May 14, 2010 Advisory Action asserts that the seed list contains several network addresses of devices including a second terminal device and a first terminal device both when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information and when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information. However, since the seed list merely contains the addresses of the clients regardless that the clients retain the multimedia information or not, the recipient of the seed list

cannot know which client retains the specific multimedia information or which client requires the multimedia information. In case of a push-type sharing system of the present subject matter, where a first terminal device sends a request to share the multimedia information (see, FIG. 5 of the present disclosure), the seed list of Goodman does not work. In other words, even if, *arguendo*, Goodman's seed list was used in the alleged combination of Enoki and Lui, the multimedia information could not be transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices by referring to the network addresses in such a combination, because the terminal devices cannot specify to which terminal device(s) the multimedia information should be sent.

In contrast, in claim 11, when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, the network address of the second terminal device is sent to the first terminal device, so that the first terminal device can know to which terminal device the multimedia information should be sent (i.e., push-type sharing system). Since the address information of the second terminal device is sent to the first terminal device, the multimedia information of the first terminal device can be directly sent to the second terminal device without intervention of the server.

In the December 1, 2009 Office Action, it is asserted that the "Search and Get request" process of Goodman relates to the above identified features of claim 11. However, it is clear that the "Search and Get request" process is a pull-type sharing process, in which a client who wants to receive the multimedia information sends a request to the server. As such, Goodman fails to disclose the push-type sharing system and process as set forth in claim 11. Accordingly, the combination of the cited references does not disclose the subject matter of claim 11 where a first terminal device having multimedia information can search a second terminal device which does not have the multimedia information.

Further, it is also clear that the additional cited Yang B reference does not cure the deficiencies of Enoki, Lui and Goodman, and it would not have been obvious to add these features to any combination of the cited references because there is simply no motivation or suggestion to do so.

Based on the foregoing, Appellant respectfully submits that claim 11 are patentable over the cited references.

(3) Dependent claims 2-10 and 12-20 are patentable over the cited references.

Under Federal Circuit guidelines, a dependent claim is nonobvious if the independent claim upon which it depends is allowable because all the limitations of the independent claim are contained in the dependent claims, *Hartness International Inc. v. Simplimatic Engineering Co.*, 819 F.2d at 1100, 1108 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Accordingly, since independent claims 1 and 11 are patentable over the cited references, dependent claims 2-10 and 12-20 are also patentable over the cited references for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 11.

Further, Appellant respectfully submits that the features of each of claims 2-10 and 12-20 are not disclosed by the cited references, claims 2-10 and 12-20 are patentable over the cited references on their own merit in addition to the dependency upon claims 1 and 11, respectively.

Conclusion

For all of the foregoing reason, Appellant respectfully submits that the grounds of rejection of the claims on appeal are in error and should be reversed.

Respectfully submitted,

McDERMOTT WILL & EMERY LLP



Takashi Saito

Limited Recognition No. L0123

600 13th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20005-3096
Phone: 202.756.8000 MEF/TS/
Facsimile: 202.756.8087
Date: August 2, 2010

**Please recognize our Customer No. 53080
as our correspondence address.**

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A server for use in a system that is designed to transmit, receive and share multimedia information between a plurality of terminal devices that are connected together over a network, the plurality of terminal devices including a first terminal device and a second terminal device, the server comprising:

a network control device;

a memory storing a management table for managing identifiers to identify the terminal devices and network addresses of the terminal devices on the network;

a server receiving unit configured to receive a request including an identifier from the first terminal device through the network control device;

a processing unit configured to acquire a network address of the first terminal device upon receiving the request, and to acquire a network address of the second terminal device by referring to the identifier included in the request and the management table; and

a server transmitting unit configured to send the network address of the second terminal device to the first terminal device through the network control device when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information, or to send the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information,

wherein the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices by referring to the network addresses provided.

2. The server of claim 1, wherein when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the server receiving unit is configured to receive the identifier of the second terminal device

and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device, and the server transmitting unit is configured to send the share request to the second terminal device, and

when the server receiving unit receives an acknowledgement, indicating that the multimedia information is receivable, from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the server transmitting unit is configured to send the network address of the second terminal device and a request to transmit the multimedia information to the first terminal device.

3. The server of claim 2,

wherein the first terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information representing properties of said at least one title, is stored,

wherein the server receiving is configured to receive the title information from the first terminal device,

wherein the processing is configured to make a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the second terminal device, and

wherein the server transmitting is configured to transmit the title list to the first terminal device and to receive a request to share the multimedia information, selected by referring to the title list, from the first terminal device.

4. The server of claim 3, wherein the processing is configured to make the title list including titles that are playable by the second terminal device.

5. The server of claim 1, wherein when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the server further includes a format description table that describes correspondence between the identifiers to identify the terminal devices and formats of the multimedia information that are compatible with respective terminal devices,

the processing unit is configured to generate filter information about the format compatible with the second terminal device by referring to the format description table, and the server transmitting unit is configured to transmit the filter information to the first terminal device, and

a request to share the multimedia information that has been filtered by the first terminal device in accordance with the filter information is sent from the first terminal device to the second terminal device, whereby the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices.

6. The server of claim 1, wherein when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the server receiving unit is configured to receive the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device, and the server transmitting unit is configured to send the share request and the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device, and

when the server receiving unit receives an acknowledgement, indicating that the multimedia information is transmittable, from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the server transmitting unit is configured to send a request to receive the multimedia information to the first terminal device.

7. The server of claim 6,

wherein the second terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing properties of said at least one title, is stored,

wherein the server receiving unit is configured to receive the title information from the second terminal device,

wherein the processing unit is configured to make a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the first terminal device, and

wherein the server transmitting unit is configured to transmit the title list to the first terminal device and to receive a request to share the multimedia information, selected by referring to the title list, from the first terminal device.

8. The server of claim 7, wherein the processing unit is configured to make the title list including titles that are playable by the first terminal device.

9. The server of claim 1, wherein the network address includes an IP address and a port number.

10. The server of claim 3, further comprising a search unit configured to search the title information that is stored in the transmitting-end database,

wherein the server receiving unit is configured to receive the title information based on a result of the search done by the search section.

11. A method for processing a server for use in a system that is designed to transmit, receive and share multimedia information between a plurality of terminal devices that are connected together over a network, the server including a network control device and a management table for managing identifiers to identify the terminal devices and network addresses of the terminal devices on the network, the plurality of terminal devices including a first terminal device and a second terminal device, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request including an identifier from the first terminal device through the network control device;

acquiring a network address of the first terminal device upon receiving the request, and to acquire a network address of the second terminal device by referring to the identifier included in the request and the management table; and

sending the network address of the second terminal device to the first terminal device through the network control device when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information or sending the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information,

whereby the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices by referring to the network addresses provided.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the step of receiving includes receiving the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device,

the step of sending includes sending the share request to the second terminal device, and

when an acknowledgement indicating that the multimedia information is receivable, is received from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the step of sending includes sending the network address of the second terminal device and a request to transmit the multimedia information to the first terminal device.

13. The method of claim 12,

wherein the first terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing properties of said at least one title, is stored,

wherein the step of receiving includes receiving the title information from the first terminal device,

wherein the step of processing includes making a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the second terminal device, and

wherein when, in the step of sending, the title list is sent to the first terminal device after the step of making a title list, the step of receiving includes receiving a request to share the multimedia information, selected by referring to the title list, from the first terminal device.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the step of processing includes making the title list including titles that are playable by the second terminal device.

15. The method of claim 11, wherein when the first terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the server further includes a format description table that describes correspondence between the

identifiers to identify the terminal devices and formats of the multimedia information that are compatible with the respective terminal devices,

the step of processing includes generating filter information about the format compatible with the second terminal device by referring to the format description table, and

the step of sending includes transmitting the filter information to the first terminal device, whereby a request to share the multimedia information that has been filtered by the first terminal device in accordance with the filter information is sent from the first terminal device to the second terminal device, and the multimedia information is transmitted, received and shared between the first and second terminal devices.

16. The method of claim 11, wherein when the second terminal device retains the multimedia information,

the step of receiving includes receiving the identifier of the second terminal device and a share request to share the multimedia information from the first terminal device,

the step of sending includes sending the share request and the network address of the first terminal device to the second terminal device, and

when an acknowledgement indicating that the multimedia information is transmittable, is received from the second terminal device in response to the share request, the step of sending includes sending a request to receive the multimedia information to the first terminal device.

17. The method of claim 16,

wherein the second terminal device has a transmitting-end database on which the multimedia information, including at least one title, and title information, representing properties of said at least

one title, is stored,

wherein the step of receiving includes receiving the title information from the second terminal device,

wherein the step of processing includes making a title list, including predetermined titles, based on the title information and the identifier of the first terminal device, and

wherein, when in the step of sending, the title list is sent to the first terminal device after the step of making a title list, the step of receiving includes receiving a request to share the multimedia information, selected by reference to the title list, from the first terminal device.

18. The method of claim 17, wherein the step of processing includes making the title list including titles that are playable by the first terminal device.

19. The method of claim 11, wherein the network address includes an IP address and a port number.

20. The method of claim 13, further comprising the step of searching the title information that is stored in the transmitting-end database,

wherein the step of receiving includes receiving the title information based on a result of the step of searching.

EVIDENCE APPENDIX

No evidence was provided during prosecution of this application.

RELATED PROCEEDINGS APPENDIX

To the best of Appellant's and Appellant's representatives' knowledge, there are no related appeals or interferences.